



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Mountain
Plains
Region

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Reply to
Attn of:

SP-03-19
CACFP-705
SFSP-485

Subject:

Pasteurized Juice

To:

STATE AGENCY DIRECTORS – Colorado ED, Colorado DPHE,
(Special Nutrition Programs) Iowa, Kansas, Missouri ED, Missouri DH,
Montana OPI, Montana DPHHS, Nebraska ED,
North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming ED

RECOMMENDATION

This memorandum is to clarify the use of pasteurized juice in the Child Nutrition programs. **While there is no current regulation requirement, we strongly recommend that only pasteurized juice be used as part of a reimbursable meal/snack in the child nutrition programs.** The American Academy of Pediatrics supports the recommendation to use only pasteurized juice. Pasteurized juice is generally identified as such on the product label.

HEALTH RISK OF UNPASTEURIZED OR UNTREATED JUICE

The concern about unpasteurized or untreated juice, such as apple juice or cider and orange juice, is based on outbreaks of foodborne illnesses caused by pathogenic microorganisms present in these unpasteurized or untreated products. Children, pregnant women, the elderly, and persons with weakened immune systems are at particular risk for serious illnesses, and even death, caused by these harmful microorganisms. The unpasteurized or untreated juice is often referred to as "natural juice."

FDA REGULATIONS FOR JUICE PRODUCTS

While most juice is pasteurized, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) does not require manufacturers to pasteurize their products or use other non-thermal methods, such as Ultra Violet (UV) light, to control foodborne pathogens.

When outbreaks of foodborne illnesses caused by unpasteurized or untreated juice occurred, FDA responded by requiring juice products to have warning labels to identify unpasteurized or untreated juice.

However, FDA recently enacted a new rule that requires juice products to be processed using the application of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles to reduce foodborne pathogens. **This rule eliminated the requirement for the warning label on unpasteurized juice processed with the HACCP principles.**

It may be difficult for a CNP sponsor or school district to determine a juice processor's compliance with the HACCP principles; therefore, our recommendation to use pasteurized juice would ensure that a safe product is selected. This policy is consistent with current *Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs, Revised November 2001*, page 2-43, that recommends using only pasteurized juice.

If there are any questions, please call our office at (303) 844-0355.

Evie Ashmore

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DARLENE SANCHEZ
Regional Director
Special Nutrition Programs